

T I T L E P A G E

THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT

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Photoplay of 6 reels

JUL 12 1922

Written by Dr. Selma Lagerlof

Adapted ^{and Directed} by Victor Seastrom

Author of Photoplay - Metro Pictures Corp

U.S.A.

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Anthony Hope's
great romance has
been screened at a
cost of a million—
and shows it!



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THE CAST

JUL 12 1922

David Holm	Victor Seastrom
His Wife	Hilda Bergstrom
Geller	Toro Swennberg
Edith Larson	Astrid Holm

A Swedish Biograph Production.

Written by Dr. Selma Lagerlof.

Adapted and directed by Victor Seastrom.

Distributed by Metro Pictures corporation.

David Holm after his release from prison, resolves that he will turn over a new leaf and lead a new life. Joyfully he returns to his home, expecting to see his wife and his two children. He finds that they have moved away; and the desertion embitters him.

Toward the end of the year, Holm stops at the door of a rescue mission in the slums, just opened by Edith Larsson and another woman. They answer his rapping timidly, and Edith's co-worker is inclined to refuse the ragged man admission. But Edith is insistent, and shelter is provided him. To Edith he tells the story of his wife's disappearance.

The Next morning he discovers that his coat has been mended by Edith, but sullenly he rips out the neat patches.

Still, Edith's labors for the wretched man's welfare continue. She finds Mrs. Holm, and effects a reunion between her and David.

Quarrelsome, bitter as ever, David makes a dismal, deliberate failure of their reconciliation. He tortures his sleeping children, and behaves madly to her. Driven by him to fury, she decides she can stand it no longer. She locks the door on him and begins dressing her children to take them away from him. He attempts to open the door, and finding it locked, seizes a hatchet and first breaking the lock, hammers down the door. He mocks her attempt to get away from him, and taunts

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her mercilessly.

David goes back to his vagrant life. Shortly before the stroke of midnight of New Year's eve he is seated along a street curb with two other derelicts, drinking. David tells them a story, narrated to him by a friend of him, an old man named Geller.

Shortly before midnight on a New Year's eve-- so the story goes--when David and two others of his kind were playing cards, a disagreement arose. A lusty brawl which might have had serious consequences took place, had not Geller, who was resting in a corner, intervened. Geller pleaded with them not to provoke a quarrel on New Year's eve. He told them graphically of a legend that the cart of death, driven by Death with his reaper in hand, visited persons on land and sea, gathering in their souls. And whosoever died on New Year's eve must drive the cart of death for the year to come.

As David finishes the story with the remark that Geller himself died on a New Year's eve, a man approaches him and informs him that Edith Larsson, the young girl who had tried to save him, is dying and wants David and Mrs. Holm to come to her. He refuses, and the messenger leaves. His two friends reproach him for not answering Edith's summons, and in the fight that follows, David is knocked unconscious.

In a delirium he again sees the gray death cart, this time driven by his pal Geller, with the cloak of Death over him. Geller approaches him and bids him go with him. The obstinate David refuses to obey, but Death knows no law but its own, and David is thrown into the cart, while his spirit rests next to Geller. Together they visit Edith's Bedside. The dying girl caresses his head, and implores him to return to his wife and reform. This

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time her words have an effect on him and he bursts into tears. He next visits his poverty-stricken home. His two children are in their bed, asleep. His wife, worn out with the battle for mere existence, pours a white powder into the tea, planning to end the wife of all three. Although his spirit is in the same room, David knows no words and can say no prayers to prevent her act.

Just at this time David awakes from his stupor. He looks about him in amazement, and with the spell still upon him, he runs to his home. Here he find his wife about to pour the poisoned tea for herself and her family. He restrains her and humbly tells her that he has already reformed.

And when the next New Year's eve comes around, David and his wife and children are happy and contented. His regeneration is now full and complete.

METRO PICTURES CORPORATION

916 G STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C.



JUL 12 1922



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**PRISONER
of ZENDA**



"The Four Horse-
men's" director has
made another box-
office champion



Anthony Hope's
great romance has
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cost of a million—
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July 11., 1922.

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